

Listing of the Claims:

Below is a listing of all claims using a strikethrough and underlining to show changes.

1. Canceled

2. (original) A hard copy creation method comprising:

recording an image on a recording medium on a side of an image recording surface; and

forming on said image recording surface a transparent coat layer having asperities corresponding to three-dimensional information of said image so as to cover at least a part of said image recording surface, thereby creating a hard copy.

3. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 2,

wherein said three-dimensional information is one or more of information on positions of objects forming said image, information on depths of surfaces of said objects, information on directions of the surfaces of said objects, and information on edge portions of said objects, and a state of said asperities of the transparent coat layer is determined in correspondence with positions of said objects.

4. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 2,

wherein said state of said asperities of the transparent coat layer is controlled by one or more of a difference of height in said asperities, a formation frequency of said asperities, a formation density of said asperities, a aggregation pattern of said asperities, and a thickness of said transparent coat layer.

5. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 2,

wherein said image is recorded by modulating an image recording unit according to digital image data, and said three-dimensional information accompanies said digital image data.

6. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 2,

wherein said image to be recorded on said recording medium on the side of said image recording surface is adjusted according to said three-dimensional information.

7. (currently amended) A hard copy creation method comprising:

recording an image on a recording medium on a side of an image recording surface; and

forming a transparent coat layer, having asperities, on a designated area of said image recording surface, wherein the asperities are formed using shape data of describing the asperities, wherein the shape data corresponds which is created in advance according to materials of objects forming said image, thereby creating a hard copy.

8. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 7,

wherein said recording step of said image is performed by modulating a image recording unit according to digital image data, and an image obtained by reproducing said digital image data as a visible image is displayed for indication of said designated area.

9. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 8,

wherein said formation of said transparent coat layer with respect to said designated area is performed according to a result of area extraction by analysis of said digital image data.

10. (currently amended) The hard copy creation method according to claim 7,

wherein said shape data of describing said asperities is created in correspondence with one or more of a metal type material, a resin type material, a cloth type material, and a wood type material.

11. (currently amended) The hard copy creation method according to claim 7,

wherein said shape data describing said asperities has one or more of information concerning a difference of height in said asperities of said transparent coat layer, a formation frequency of said asperities of said transparent coat layer, a formation density

of said asperities of said transparent coat layer, a coagulation pattern of said asperities of said transparent coat layer, and a thickness of said transparent coat layer.

12. (original) A hard copy creation method comprising:

analyzing two-dimensional image data to extract a surface area of an image to be reproduced or having been reproduced from said two-dimensional image data and detect density variation in the thus extracted surface area of said image; and

forming, on at least a part of an image recording surface of a hard copy in which said image reproduced from said two-dimensional image data has been recorded, a transparent coat layer having asperities corresponding to the thus detected density variation in the extracted surface area of said image in correspondence with said extracted surface area of said image.

13. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 12,

wherein said two-dimensional image data is obtained by photoelectrically scanning said image recorded in said hard copy.

14. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 12,

wherein said two-dimensional image data comprises two-dimensional image data from which said image recorded in said hard copy is reproduced.

15. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 12,

wherein said surface area having larger density variation has a larger size of said asperities of said transparent coat layer corresponding to said surface area.

16. (original) The hard copy creation method according to claim 12,

wherein said at least a part of the image recording surface of said hard copy corresponds to the extracted surface area of said image.

17-18. Canceled